ISLAMIC MARRIAGE

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MARRIAGE

Allaah’s Messenger (s.a.w.s) has said: “Marriage is a part of my Sunnah. Whoever runs away from my path is not from among us.” (Ibn Maajah, Book of marriage)

Marriage is an inseparable relationship which does not break in the Hereafter, unless it is dissolved. And it is a source of blessings of Allaah (s.w.t) for this world and for the Hereafter. Because of this judicious saying that whichever worship has been made compulsory among humans there is no such worship which began from Hazrat Aadam ‘Alyhis-salaam and goes till Paradise except marriage and faith.”

(Durr-mukhtaar Book of marriage).

Marriage is the Sunnah of all the Prophets, which came continuously and run till Doomsday.

Allaah (s.w.t) addresses people and instructs them to facilitate marriage (covenant) among one another: “Marry those among you who are single. And let those who find not the financial means for marriage keep themselves chaste, until Allaah enrich them of His Bounty.” (An-Noor V: 32-33)

Allaah's Messenger (s.a.w.s) said: "O young people! Those of you, who can afford marriage, let them marry, for it restrains eyes and preserves your chastity." (Muslim)

In fact marriage implicates, love and mercy. Establishes a pious and peaceful society. Increase progeny which may contribute to the strength of Islaam.

View of selection

Usually selection of a wife is done on these parameters i.e. their wealth, noble descent and beauty.

But our Creator says: "Marry those women who are religious and chaste". (Al-Maaidah V: 5)

And the Prophet (s.a.w.s) also said Muslims should prefer religious woman first.

(Bukhari and Muslim)

According to another Hadeeth "The whole world is a provision and the best object of benefit of the world is the pious woman." (Muslim)

The choice of a wife is restricted to those whom Islaam permits one to wed. Allaah (s.w.t) says: “Forbidden to you (for marriage) are: your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, your father’s sisters, your mother’s sisters, your brother’s daughters, your sister’s daughters, your foster mother who gave you suck, your foster milk suckling sisters, your wives’ mothers, your step- daughters under your guardianship, born of your wives to whom you have gone in --- but there is no sin on you if you have not in them (to marry their daughters), ---- the wives of your sons who (spring) from your own loins, and two sisters in wedlock at the same time, except for what has already passed; verily, Allaah is Oft-giving, Most Merciful. Also (forbidden are) women already married, except those whom your right hands possess. Thus has Allaah ordained for you. All others are lawful, provided you seek (them in marriage).” (An-Nisaa V: 23-24)

The Betrothal

Before marriage, there is the step of betrothal in which the man’s family asks for certain woman’s hand, in which both the families introduce themselves about pedigree, education, religious affliction and social status etc. After that both parties make enquiry, if it satisfies proceeds to the betrothal. If it is not satisfied break the proposal. If one desires to see the

proposed girl before the betrothal the parents of the girl should not reject such a request as it is approved by the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s).

Hazrat Mughyrah bin Sha'abah once asked for a woman's hand and the Prophet said to him: Look at her because this keeps you both in agreement and harmony." (Musnad Ahmad and Tirmizi)

During the engagement period, the man has no right to be with his betrothed woman in privacy. The betrothal is only a promise for marriage.

Some important notes

If the marriage discussion is going on with another person then do not send the proposal until it is finished. (Bukhari and Muslim)

In the status of "Ihraam" neither marry, nor arrange someone's marriage and should not send marriage proposal. (Muslim)

Any woman should not marry without permission of her father/guardian. (Abu Daoud and Nisaai)

In the discussion of marriage do not keep a condition that if you marry our daughter, we will marry your daughter. (Bukhari and Muslim)

At the time of discussion of marriage a woman should not keep a condition to a man that if you divorced your first wife, I will marry you. (Bukhari and Muslim)

A Widow should not marry without consultation with her guardian. (Bukhari)

MAHR (BRIDAL MONEY)

Allaah (s.w.t) ordered "Give them their bridal money as duty." (An-Nisaa V: 24)

"Give to the women their bridal money with good heart, but if they, of their own good pleasure, remit any part of it to you, take it, and enjoy it without fear of any harm."

(An-Nisaa V: 4)

There is no sin on you, if you divorce women while you have not touched them, (had sexual relation with), nor appointed unto them their bridal money. But bestow on them, (Al-Baqarah V: 236)

“If you divorce them before you have touched them, and you have appointed unto them the bridal money, then pay half of that, unless they (the women) agree to forego it, or he, in whose hands is the marriage tie, agrees to forego and give her full appointed bridal money. And to forego and give (her full bridal money) is nearer to piety. And do not forget goodness between yourselves. Allaah is Seer of what you do.” (Al- Baqarah V: 237)

“If wife need parting from her husband by giving him certain compensation, so relieve her. Do not transgress her”. (Al-Baqarah V: 229)

> “O believers, who have faith in Allaah! You are forbidden to inherit women against their will. And you should not treat them with harshness that you make take away part of the bridal money you have given them”. (An-Nisaa V: 19)

Amount of Mahr (Bridal money)

There is a not a fixed amount about the bridal money. It depends upon the bridegroom’s financial ability 0r on mutual agreement of both families.

There are two modes of bridal money payment: (i) **Mahr Mu`ajjal** [instant payment before marriage sermon or after sermon] (ii) **Mahr Muajjal** delayed payment. The holy Prophet

(s.a.w.s) preferred instant payment. He (s.a.w.s) said: Give her some thing before wed-lock. (Abu Daoud, Nisaai and Haakim- Neel-al- Autaar 6/148)

Mahr of Prophet's daughters and the mother of believers (May Allaah be pleased with them) was 500 Dirham's (silver coin). One dirham =0.2625 Tolas of silver, 5oo Dirham's = 131.25 Tolas of silver. Mahr of mother of believer Um-Habeebah (r.a) was 400 Deenaar (golden coin). According to the research of Qaazee Sulaimaan Mansoor pooree the Mahr of Hazrat Khadeejah (r.a) was 6 red camels.

Mahr of Hazrat 'Abdur Rahmaan bin 'Auf (r.a) was gold equal to the seed of palm date.

According to the above, delayed payment of Mahr should be fixed in silver or gold weight, because the currencies fluctuate. For example, ten years ago if a person has made a delayed payment of Mahr 10 thousand rupees, at that time the rate of gold was 10 thousand rupees per tola (10 grams), now the person pays his delayed payment of rupees 10 thousand, but today's gold rate is 30 thousand per tola (10 grams). Now in 10 thousand rupees even 4 grams of gold cannot be bought. So it is unjust with the wife.

JAHAZ/DOWRY

Asking of the dowry money or Jahaz is a non-Muslim custom and it is against the spirit of Islaam. This bad habit is adopted in Muslim society. Demanding of huge dowry is a hindrance for middle class families' daughters. Some rich families are showing attractive dowry to trap suitable persons for their daughters. The amount of dowry varies according to the educational qualifications, professional standard, wealth and social status of the bridegroom. This wretched custom has grown in to the Muslim society of the Indian sub continent and has stained the Islamic matrimonial rites. It is enjoined that the parents of bride should not burden themselves with "Jahaz": a host of household effects, trunks overflowing with dresses and jewelry and truck loads of furniture. It is very shameful for the bridegroom. In fact the bridegroom is responsible to provide all the amenities of life to his wife according to his financial ability and status.

Hazrat 'Ali (r.a) went to the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s) and requested him for Hazrat Faatima's hand for marriage. The Prophet of Allaah (s.a.w.s) asked: "Do you have money for marriage? He replied no, but I have a horse and an armour chain. Then the Prophet of

mercy (s.a.w.s) said leave the horse for your needs and sell your armour chain to fulfill your marriage expenditures.

Hazrat ‘Ali (r.a) went to the market on the way Hazrat ‘Usmaan (r.a.) met him and asked him where he was going. Hazrat ‘Ali (r.a) narrates the whole story. Hazrat ‘Usmaan (r.a) asked about the cost. Hazrat ‘Ali (r.a) said 480 Dirhams. Hazrat ‘Usmaan (r.a) bought his armour chain in 480 Dirhams. Afterwards he returned the armour chain to Hazrat ‘Ali (r.a) and said this was a gift from him.

Hazrat ‘Ali happily returned with armour and money and told all details to the Prophet (s.a.w.s). He made the best supplications for Hazrat ‘Usmaan (r.a). And called Hazrat Abu Bakr (r.a) and told him to take the money and by goods for marriage. Hazrat Abu Bakr buys all goods with his choice. Remaining arrangements of marriage was done by mothers of believers Hazrat ‘Aaisha (r.a), Um Salmah (r.a) and others.

The following items are given as dowry to Hazrat Faatimah (r.a).

1. A cot
2. A manual grinding mill

3. A skin water carrier
4. A cup of clay
5. Two leather mattresses fill up with bark of dates.

This is an Islaamic way of marriage.

Hazrat 'Aaisha Siddeeqah (r.a) relates that the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s) said: "Announce the marriage and solemnize it in Mosque." (Tirmizi)

The Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s) said: "The best wedding is that upon which the least trouble and expense is bestowed." (Bukhari)

The Requisites of Marriage

1. Consent of Bride and Bridegroom.
2. Approval from parents.
3. Fixation of bridal money.
4. Two witnesses.
5. Eejaab (affirming from bride) and Qubool (acceptance from bridegroom).
6. Reciting of marriage sermon.

Absence of these invalidates the marriage.

Translation of Marriage Sermon

All praise is to Allah! We praise Him and we seek His aid and we ask His shelter from the evil of ourselves and from the wickedness of our deeds. Whosoever Allaah guides, there is none can misguide him and whosoever Allaah sends astray there is none can guide him. And I bear witness that none is worthy of worship except Allaah, Alone, without partners and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and His Messenger.

“O, believers, who have faith in Allaah, you should fear Allaah as His due and should keep strictly to the Islaamic way of life till you die”. (Aali-‘Imraan V: 102)

“O mankind! You should fear your Lord, who created you from a single soul and from it created its mate and from them both He created a large number of men and women and fear Allaah, through whom you claim your rights of one another and you should respect the rights of your relatives. Remember, Allaah is watching you all the time”. (An-Nisaa V: 1)

“O believers, who have faith in Allaah, fear Him, and always tell the true facts. Thus Allaah will help you in good deeds and will forgive your sins. Those, who obey Allaah and His messenger, will attain a grand everlasting success”. (Al-Ahzaab V: 70-71)

Supplication said by the guest for the couple:

“baarakalaahu laka, wa baaraka ‘alyka, wa jama’a bynakumaa fee khyrin” (Tirmizi)

“May Allaah bless you and shower His blessings upon you, and may He unite both of you in goodness”

May Allaah guide you both on steps of “Taqwaa” and may He provide the two of you with good communication in your relationship.

May Allaah grant wisdom, patience and temperament to bride and groom to honour this beautiful relationship.

May Allaah help you to reaffirm your commitments to each other.

O Lord! Accept our supplication. You are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing. Aameen

The groom's supplication for bride on the wedding night

"Allaahumma in-nee as aluka khyrahaa wa khyra maa jabaltahaa 'alyhi wa a'oozubika min shar-rihaa wa shar-ri maa jabaltahaa 'alyhi" (Abu Daoud & Ibn Maajah)

Meanings: 'O Allaah, I ask You for the goodness within her and the goodness that you have made her inclined towards, and I take refuge with You from the evil within her and the evil that have made her.

Innovations:

Now a day's our marriages are entirely different. We are doing many customs i.e. Saanchaq, Mehndi, Video graphy, Musical bands, Songs, well decorated car, burning of Fireworks and Crackers, Baaraat in procession leading to traffic jams, Mixed gathering, marriage feast from bride's parents, Jalwah and arranging Waleemah in big function halls, fully decorative stage, many kinds of dishes, music, Orchestra etc; till late night, several old aged persons, pregnant women, small children, patients suffer in hardships. These are evil acts and lavish expenditures and ignored needy and poor people. The

Prophet of Mercy (s.a.w.s) said: The worst Waleemah is in which invites only rich people and ignore needy people. (Bukhari and Muslim)

Islaam likes simplicity. This is purely Non-Islamic customs. It is necessary to avoid these evil customs; otherwise Allaah's torture will encompass us.

The Almighty Allaah (s.w.t) says in the Holy Quraan: "Truly, the religion in the Sight of Allaah is Islaam. And whoever seeks a religion other than Islaam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers."

(Aali-'Imraan V: 19 & 85)

Our beloved Prophet (s.a.w.s) said: "The one who adopts other's culture will be included in them."

To adopt other's culture means that we love and like their culture. Through these acts we prove and declare that we don't love and like our Prophet's traditions. Automatically we are cut-off from Islamic culture.

Tips for a Happy and Successful Marriage

To the young and excited bride-and- groom-to-be; you are ecstatic about the upcoming wedding and marriage and the joy that it will bring. Three to six months later, reality dawns and both spouses realize that marriage is not an easy task, but one that takes a great deal of effort and patience. The following are tips for both wives and husbands, to help make the task little less daunting, and to increase the many rewards that are possible in such a marvelous and complex relationship.

Begin the Marriage with the Right Intention and Renew this Often

Both spouses should begin the marriage with the pure intention of pleasing Allaah (s.w.t) in order to receive His grace and blessings. The marriage itself then becomes an act of worship and one for which both spouses will be rewarded. Allaah will be pleased with them and this will be the most critical element in ensuring peace, stability and happiness throughout the marital life. It is also important to realize that when an act of worship is continued over a correct path and to obtain the most benefit.

Remember that Your Spouse family is also your family

Too often Muslims treat other people outside the home with kindness and sincerity, but then behave in a very different manner when it comes to their own spouse's family. Muslims should always remember that one's spouse father, mother, brother and sister is also like your father, mother, brother and sister and that the rights and duties that apply in life should also form the basis of the marital relationship. Obviously, a spouse has rights beyond these, but there should be a clear understanding of the rights of spouse's family and adherence to these principles

Do Not Hold Unrealistic Expectations

People often have unrealistic ideas about their spouse-to-be, expecting perfection in all aspects. This rarely, if ever, plays out in reality and can lead to unnecessary problems and concerns. We should recall that Allaah (s.w.t) created humans as imperfect beings, which means that many mistakes will be made throughout a lifetime. By turning the table and expecting imperfection, we will be pleasantly surprised and pleased when our spouse is much more than we ever hoped for. This, in turn, will lead to contentment within the marriage.

Emphasize the Best in Your Spouse

Since no one is endowed with all of the best qualities, emphasis should be laid on the positive qualities that a spouse possesses. Encouragement, praise, and gratitude should be expressed on a regular basis, which will strengthen these qualities and be beneficial in developing others. An attempt should be made to overlook or ignore negative characteristics, as the Prophet (s.a.w.s) said, “A believing man should not have any malice against a believing woman. He may dislike one characteristic in her, but may find another in her which is pleasing.” (Muslim)

Be Your Mate’s Best Friend

Try to think of what a best friend means and be one to your spouse. This may be sharing interests, experiences, dreams, failures and success. It may involve understanding a spouse’s likes and dislikes and attempting to please him or her in any way possible. A best friend also usually is someone that can be trusted, and relied upon. A spouse should be the kind of friend that one would want to keep throughout life.

Spend Quality Time Together

It is not enough to share meals, chores and small talk together. Spouses should also find time to focus on strengthening the relationship. Often couples get busy with their own separate tasks and forget about working on one of the most important elements in life. Quality time may be anything from having a quiet, profound conversation to going for a nice long walk, to sharing a special hobby or project. Both spouses should enjoy the particular option chosen and distractions should be kept to a minimum.

Express Feelings Often

This is probably a very "Western" concept and one that some people may have difficulty fulfilling, but it is important to be open and honest about one's feelings, both positive and negative. The lines of communication should always be open and any concerns should be brought to the attention of the other spouse as soon as they arise. The rationale of this is that what begins as a simple ill-feeling may grow into a major problem if it is not addressed quickly and properly. The "silent treatment" has never been the remedy for anything.

Admit to Mistakes and ask for Forgiveness

Just as we ask Allaah to forgive us when we make mistakes, we should also do the same with our spouses. The stronger person is the one who can admit when he or she is wrong, request pardon from the other, and work hard to improve his/her aspects that are in need of chance. When a person is unwilling to do this, there will be little growth and development in the marriage.

Never Bring up Mistakes of the Past

It can be very hurting for another person to be reminded of past mistakes. In Islaam, it is generally not recommended to dwell on the past. One may remember errors that were made so that they are not repeated, but this should not be done excessively. Certainly, as humans, we are not in the position to judge another person. Advice may be given, but not in a harmful manner.

Surprise Each Other at Times

This may be entail bringing home a small gift or flowers, preparing a special meal, dressing up and beautifying oneself (this is not only for women), or sending a secret

note in a lunch box. A little imagination will go a long way here. The idea is to spice up the marriage and avoid getting into dull routine that may negatively affect the marriage.

Have a Sense of Humour

This particular aspect can go a long way in preventing arguments and brightening the atmosphere of the home. Life is a constant stream of challenges and tests, and to approach it in a light-hearted manner will help to make the journey smoother and more enjoyable. You may also find that your spouse enjoys this characteristic and looks forward to spending time with you because of it.

Quick Tips for Discussions and Disagreements

Begin with the intention to resolve the issue. If both spouses have this intention and plan to consult together, it is more likely that there will be a successful resolution.

Remember that it takes two to quarrel. If only one person chooses not to argue, there will be no argument. Generally, the one who is wrong does most of the talking.

Both spouses should not be angry at the same time. If one of the spouses becomes upset, it is best if the other tries to remain calm and collected.

Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire. Of course, house fires do not occur very frequently; yelling should occur at about the same rate.

Never go to sleep with an argument unsettled. This is one of the worst things that can happen in a marriage and should be avoided as much as possible. This allows hurt feelings and thoughts to linger and generally exacerbates the problem.

If one needs to win, let it be your mate. Do not focus on winning yourself, this is the main reason that discussions tend to become heated.

Try to be the best

Always remember the words of Allaah's Messenger (s.a.w.s) "The best wife is one whose husband is pleased to see her and when he ask her to do anything, she obeys him". (Ibn Maajah)

Tips to be a successful Husband

Dress up well for one's wife:

Dress up your wife look clean and smell good. When was the last time we men looked good to please our wives. Just like the husband wants his wife to look nice for him, she also wants her husband to dress up for her too. Remember that Rasoolullaah (s.a.w.s) would always start with Miswaak when returning home and always loved the sweetest smells.

Use likeable names for your wife:

Use the cutest names for your wife. Messenger of Allaah (s.a.w.s) had nicknames for his wives, ones that they loved. Call your wife by the most beloved names to her, and avoid using names that hurt their feelings.

Recognize the good and focus on that:

Don't treat her like a fly. We never think about a fly in our lives until 'bug' us. Similarly, a wife will do well all day – which brings no attention from the husband until she does something to 'bug' him. Don't treat like this; recognize all the good that she does and focus on that.

Be silent on the wrongs:

If you see wrong from your wife, try being silent and do not comment! This is one of the ways Apostle of Allaah (s.a.w.s) used when he would see something inappropriate from his wives (r.a). It's a technique that few Muslim men have mastered.

Smile at your wife:

Smile at your wife whenever you see her and embrace her often. Smiling is Sadaqah (charity) and your wife is not exempt from the Muslim Ummah. Imagine life with her constantly seeing you smiling. Remember also those Ahadith when Messenger of Allaah (s.a.w.s) would kiss his wife before leaving for Salaah (prayer).

Thank her:

Thank her for all that she does for you. Then thank her again! Take for example a dinner at your house. She makes the food, cleans the home, and a dozen other tasks to prepare. And sometimes the only acknowledgement she receives is that there needed to be more salt in the soup. Don't let that be; be warmly thankful to her!

Make her Happy:

Ask her to write down the last ten things you did for her that made her happy. Then go and do them again. It may be hard to recognize what gives your wife pleasure. You don't have to play a guessing game, ask her and work on repeating those times in your life.

Comfort her:

Don't be-little her desires. Comfort her. Sometimes the men may look down upon the requests of their wives. Our beloved Prophet (s.a.w.s) set the example for us in an incident when Hazrath Safiyyah (r.a) was crying because, as she said, he had put her on a slow camel. He wiped her tears, comforted her, and brought her the camel.

Be humorous:

Be humorous and play games with your wife. Look at how Messenger of Allaah (s.a.w.s) would race his wife Hazrath 'Aaisha (r.a) in the desert. When was the last time we did something like that?

Try to be the Best:

Always remember the words of Allaah's Apostle (s.a.w.s) "The best of you are those who treat their families the best. And I am the best amongst you to my family."

(Ibn Maajah and Tirmizi)

In conclusion:

Never forget to make Du'a to Allaah-'azz wa jall – to make your marriage successful. And Allaah (s.w.t) knows best!!

In last I request my respectful readers, try to prevail the marriages according to "Sunnah". May Almighty Allaah make it a source of rewards in the Hereafter.

Humbly yours.

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